



ISSN: 2617-6548

URL: [www.ijirss.com](http://www.ijirss.com)



## Child abuse in Hanoi, Vietnam: Testing relationship with risk factors

Hai, Nguyen Trung<sup>1\*</sup>, Ronald R. O'Donnell<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Labor and Social Affairs, Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup>Arizona State University, United States.

Corresponding author: Hai, Nguyen Trung (Email: [hainguyentrung1979@gmail.com](mailto:hainguyentrung1979@gmail.com))

### Abstract

Child abuse is one of the burning social problems in Vietnam. Children who are abused suffer significant and lasting negative effects on their development, both physically, emotionally, cognitively, and behaviorally. Physically, children show signs of hypervigilance; they startle easily, feel tired or exhausted, experience restless sleep, and have aches and pains. Cognitively, children often have nightmares, poor concentration and memory, disorientation, and confusion. Behaviorally, children often avoid places and activities that remind them of the traumatic event, avoid contact or socially isolate themselves, and lose interest in daily activities. Emotionally, children often feel scared, numb or detached, depressed, guilty, angry, easily agitated, anxious, and panicked [1]. Therefore, abused and neglected children will have poor development in the future, which affects the overall development of families and society. This study conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam, aimed to analyze the relationship between risk factors that can lead to child abuse. In this study, a quantitative design is employed. The population sample frame consists of 300 adult residents who live with their children, aged from infancy to below 18 years of age in Hanoi, Vietnam. The results show that children experienced varying types of abuse (minor, severe, very severe, and neglect) that could lead to adverse consequences in their future. There was a statistically significant relationship between some of the risk factors and child abuse. Specifically, the instability and low-income factors have a statistical relationship with a child's very severe abuse; the single parent, low education, and alcohol abuse factors have a statistical relationship with a child's severe abuse. Furthermore, instability and substance abuse also have a statistical relationship with child neglect. Identifying these risk factors will help us to develop more specific and effective interventions to address child abuse.

**Keywords:** Child abuse types, Child abuse, Relationship, Risk factors.

**DOI:** 10.53894/ijirss.v8i1.4695

**Funding:** This study received no specific financial support.

**History: Received:** 13 December 2024/**Revised:** 17 January 2025/**Accepted:** 27 January 2025/**Published:** 14 February 2025

**Copyright:** © 2025 by the authors. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Competing Interests:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' Contributions:** Both authors contributed equally to the conception and design of the study. Both authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Transparency:** The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

**Publisher:** Innovative Research Publishing

## 1. Introduction

"Children today - World tomorrow". Children are the happiness of every family and the future owners of the country. Caring for, protecting, and educating children to become individuals who develop harmoniously both physically and mentally is the responsibility of society as a whole. However, many children suffer from maltreatment and abuse. According to [Votruba-Drzal \[2\]](#), nearly 300 million (i.e., 3 out of 4) children aged 2 to 4 years are subjected to violent discipline by their caregivers (physical or mental) in their daily lives; 250 million (about 6 in 10) children are subjected to corporal punishment; and 1 in 4 (176 million) children under the age of 5 years live with their mothers, who have been victims of domestic violence [\[2\]](#). The consequences of child maltreatment and abuse seriously and directly impact child development in both physical and mental aspects and can last for many years. Children who are severely abused and neglected may suffer from brain damage, resulting in impaired development for them in Vietnam [\[3\]](#). Specifically, impaired development causes poor cognitive skills, communication difficulties, and poor learning capacity in school [\[4\]](#), and they tend to be depressed or withdraw from activities with other children [\[3, 5, 6\]](#). Thus, to ensure that children live in a safe environment and have healthy growth, it is essential to help them stay away from violence and abuse.

Studies have shown that identifying the factors that cause violence and providing early interventions can significantly reduce the number of abused children, as well as sustainably maintain effective child intervention [\[7-9\]](#). The authors have pointed out that the identified risk factors are single parenthood, community instability, unemployment, low education, low income, overcrowding in the family, and substance abuse. These factors directly or indirectly cause child abuse and neglect, leading to negative consequences for children's development in the future.

This paper aims to evaluate the relationship between risk factors and child abuse in Hanoi, Vietnam. This will provide scientific and practical evidence to help childcare staff implement timely and effective interventions.

## 2. Literature Review

Poverty includes the percentage of households that fall below the state's poverty line, the rate of unemployment, vacant houses, female-headed households, etc [\[10\]](#). It shows that despite being in different regions, higher rates of poverty are always associated with higher rates of child maltreatment. In both European American and African American neighborhoods, poverty has a close relationship with child maltreatment [\[11\]](#). By studying Census tracts with 238 participants, findings showed that poverty had a positive correlation with child maltreatment. It should be noted that poverty has different relationships with different types of child maltreatment. Studies indicated that poverty had a higher association with physical abuse [\[12\]](#).

Measured by the percentage of households with income under the poverty line, child neglect was also found to have a strong relationship with poverty [\[12\]](#). Poverty badly influences how parents take care of their children, including child abuse and neglect [\[12, 13\]](#). Poverty in neighborhoods is normally associated with crime, lack of resources, high population density, violence, and it increases the risk of stress for people [\[14\]](#). Other studies also show that parents living in poor communities experience higher stress, and as a consequence, child maltreatment occurs [\[15\]](#).

Several bodies of research have linked child abuse and neglect to poor educational outcomes. Child neglect may occur through occasional inattention, chronic under-stimulation, severe neglect in a family context, or neglect in institutional care. This paper reviews articles and reports on children placed in orphanages, social welfare, and underprivileged homes due to the lack of parental support for psychosocial care. It addresses and builds on the impact neglect has on children's brain development, family involvement, educational outcomes, developmental milestones, and future outcomes, including the transition to adulthood, early marriage, and employment. A history of childhood abuse and neglect predicts family disengagement, cognitive impairment, poor mental health, poor education, and high rates of school dropouts, leading to poor employment outcomes [\[16\]](#).

Child abuse is highly associated with and almost always occurs in families, but community and neighborhood factors also contribute to and influence the rate of child abuse. Instability in the community is one example. From the literature review, studies show that communities with instability are a potential risk factor contributing to increased rates of child maltreatment [\[10, 11\]](#). Instability is measured by the number of people moving in and out of the community within a certain time frame [\[10\]](#). Thus, a stable community is considered to have many people staying in the community for a long time. The [WHO \[17\]](#), in their study, measured community instability as the percentage of people coming in and out within five years. The study's findings showed that instability is an important factor in explaining child maltreatment rates.

Using 1995 CPS (Chicago Public Schools) data, [Hyde \[18\]](#) stated that community instability had a strong relationship with child maltreatment. However, the influence of community instability varies across different regions. [Korbin, et al. \[19\]](#), by studying census tracts with a sample of 238, showed that instability in European American neighborhoods had a close correlation with child maltreatment, but this was not the case in African American neighborhoods [\[20\]](#). As defined above, frequent moving in and out of the community creates an unstable environment. People living in such communities do not have time to get to know each other and form close relationships. According to the theory of social disorganization, individuals do not pay much attention to the issues of others around them when they live in a community without strong relationships. Thus, less intervention and support are provided from low solidarity neighborhoods when problems, including child maltreatment behaviors, occur in their area.

[Sampson, et al. \[21\]](#) stated that weak community construction, including a high rate of unemployment, low education, and instability within the community, has strong relationships with delinquency and violence, and these factors are more likely related to child abuse. This statement is supported by the study of [Kim, et al. \[22\]](#). In his study, Kim noted that children living in dangerous communities have a higher risk of being maltreated compared to other children.

### 3. Data and Methodology

#### 3.1. Study participants

A power analysis was used to calculate that 300 participants will be needed for 80% power. The population sample frame consists of adult residents who live in Hanoi, Vietnam, and have children. The respondents are parents who live with their children, aged from infancy to below 18 years of age. According to the Beijing Families and Neighborhoods Study on Domestic Violence [23], the optimum appears to be 20 or 25 clusters with N=200 or 175. Thus, with a total sample of 300, we will take 30 wards from Hanoi. Simple random samples of respondents will be drawn from lists of residents provided by the ward offices (10 respondents from each ward). This will provide a representative 3-stage cluster sample.

#### 3.2. Instrument

Instruments were developed based on the literature review and pilot study. They were written in English and then translated into Vietnamese with the assistance of a Vietnamese Social Work professor who is proficient in English. The Vietnamese version of the questionnaire was subsequently back-translated into English by other individuals to ensure its validity. This process was undertaken to ensure that the questions are clear and culturally appropriate for the Vietnamese people.

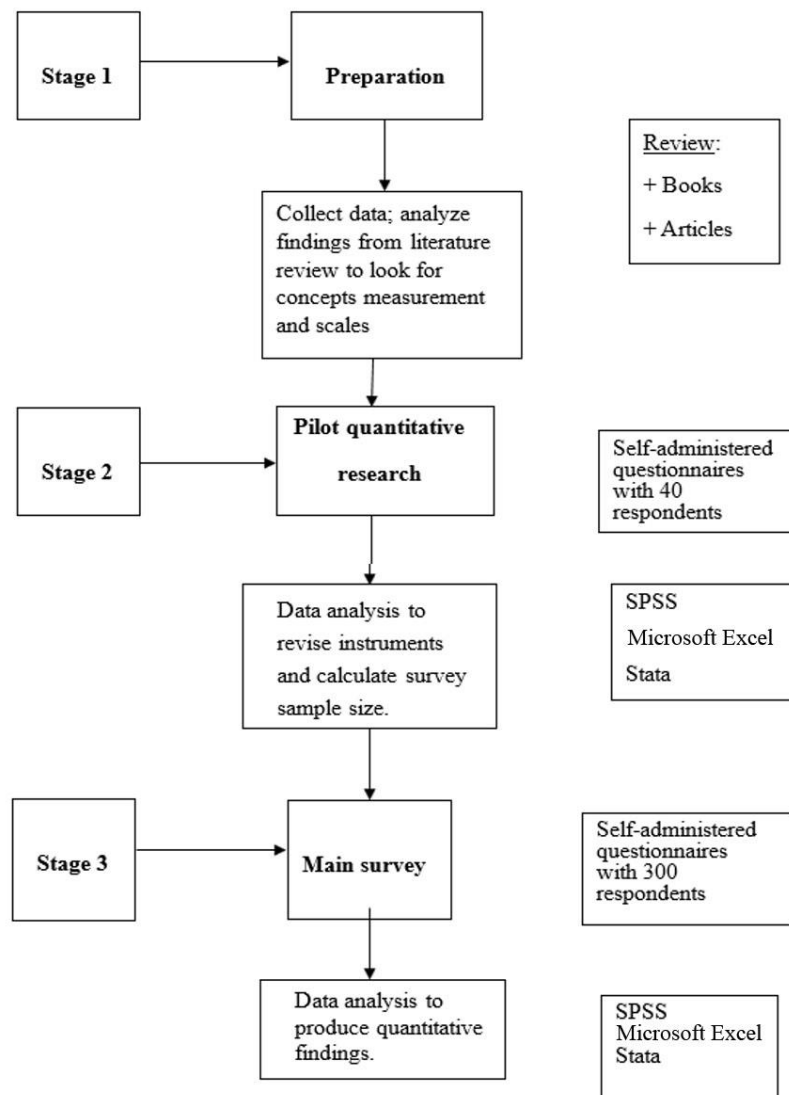
#### 3.3. Design of study.

In this study, a quantitative design is employed to examine the relationship between physical abuse, neglect, and the characteristics of neighborhoods in Vietnam.

Stage 1: Preparation: Literature review on the topic of child abuse in Vietnam and globally.

Stage 2: Conduct a pilot study.

Stage 3: Evaluate study hypotheses.



**Figure 1.**  
Procedure of study design.

#### 4. Findings

This study aims to test the relationship between the risk factors of the respondents and child abuse. First, a single variable is created by grouping items such as single, divorced, separated, and widowed. This new variable is created to determine whether single parents have a relationship with child abuse. As can be seen from [Table 1](#), the single parent variable here is 8.5%. According to [Nguyen \[24\]](#), this is because Vietnam still follows and respects the traditional family structure. Vietnamese culture maintains the belief that a normal family should consist of a husband and wife. Vietnamese society is highly influenced by traditional values, which create difficulties in remarriage, especially for women. Therefore, even if they encounter problems in their married life, they still try to maintain it.

**Table 1.**

Distribution of the risk factors among the respondents.

Variables	Percent
Single parent	8.5
Community instability	40.3
Unemployed	12.3
Low education	24.2
Low income	28.3
Crowd in family	25.9
Used abuse	12.2
Alcohol abuse	23.2

According to [Coulton, et al. \[10\]](#), communities are stable if at least five people live there. As a result, the instability variable is constructed by grouping the items "Live under 1 year" and "Live in the community from 1 to below 5 years." The sample in this study is drawn from Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Hanoi is recognized by UNESCO as one of the world's oldest cities, having existed for more than 4,000 years. Since industrialization began in recent years, many people from rural areas have come to Hanoi in search of a better life. As a result, 118 (40.3%) respondents have lived in their communities for fewer than five years.

In addition to providing more opportunities for employment, living in Hanoi is extremely difficult for someone without a job. Thus, despite the fact that Hanoians always attempt to find employment, even if it is only a part-time job, only 36 respondents (12.3%) are unemployed. In spite of this, it should be noted that more than half of them live in households with good incomes. There is a possibility that, despite being unemployed, they are still supported financially by other members of their family. Additionally, 83 respondents (28.3%) had an income below the government's poverty line in accordance with the Regulation on Poverty Standards in 2021.

This study defines low education as high school or less. There is a strong belief in Vietnam that education will ensure the quality of life for future generations. Consequently, parents always expect their children to attain a high school diploma or higher. According to the [Ministry of Education and Training \[25\]](#) in Vietnam, the completion rate of elementary school was 99% in 2020, and the completion rate of high school is also high, at 90%. Many children have been able to access education because of high expectations from their parents, particularly in cities. It is common for an immigrant child to have a low level of education. In this study, only 71 respondents (24.2%) obtained a degree below the level of a high school diploma.

People with low incomes are defined as those who earn less than \$2 million per person per month [\[20\]](#). The percentage of low-income individuals in this study is only 28.3% since all of the survey respondents live in urban areas and have incomes. The unemployment rate is not high in this region, so the rate of low-income individuals is quite appropriate.

[Coulton, et al. \[10\]](#) stated that a crowded family is comprised of many children as well as many adults. Hence, in this study, the burden of childcare is defined as having more children than adults. Table 2 shows that 76 respondents (25.9%) live in this type of family. An overcrowded family can lead to increased stress, lack of care in the family, as well as an unstable family economy [\[24, 26, 27\]](#). All of these are risk factors that can lead to domestic violence.

Used abuse is measured using three items: a hit with an object, a hit with a closed hand, and multiple hits at once (beating). Vietnam is an eastern country with a patriarchal tradition, so there are still some families who believe that "Love for a whip is good, hate it for a sweet" or "If you don't hit, you shouldn't be human." Therefore, the rate of being hit with an object is relatively low. However, the rate of being hit with a closed hand is quite high. In contrast, if abuse is defined as being hit many times at one time, this rate has decreased (36 respondents or 12.2%). It should be noted that abuse by a parent affects the future behavior of the child [\[26\]](#).

A CAGE questionnaire is used to assess the presence of an alcohol use disorder in adults [\[28\]](#). There are four questions in the CAGE questionnaire related to the use of alcohol. On the CAGE questions, item responses are scored 0 for "no" answers and 1 for "yes" answers, with a higher score indicating alcohol dependence. It is considered clinically significant when a total score is two or greater. The following table indicates that 68 respondents, or 23.25 percent, suffer from alcohol abuse. The World Health Organization reports that Vietnam is one of the countries with a high alcohol consumption rate [\[29\]](#). As a result, there are several respondents who use alcohol. The presence of such a condition can result in uncontrollable behavior, which is likely to lead to the abuse of a child.

**Table 2.**

Distribution of child abuse types.

Child abuse	Percent
Minor abuse	63.5
Severe abuse	22.5
Very severe abuse	10.9
Neglect	14.0

The child minor abuse type has the highest rate (63.5%) among child abuse types, as shown in [Table 2](#). Minor child abuse is defined as being spanked with bare hands or beaten with a hard object on the bottom or other parts of the body. Several Vietnamese studies have concluded that these actions are acceptable but may still have consequences if they are continued [\[24\]](#).

Despite the fact that Vietnam is a country derived from feudalism, many people still believe that beating children with rods is necessary to provide them with a good education, thus ensuring that they will become good individuals in the future. Children are believed to benefit from actions such as spanking with bare hands and hitting them with hard objects on the bottom [\[24\]](#). There is a similarity between these ideas and those from other countries. A study conducted in the United States reported that 84% of respondents agreed that a good, hard spanking is sometimes necessary as a method of disciplining a child [\[30\]](#). A study conducted in the Republic of Korea found that 90% of parents considered corporal punishment to be a necessary practice [\[22\]](#). In a report from Yemen, almost 90% of children stated that physical and humiliating punishment is the main method of discipline in the family, with the most common form being beating [\[14\]](#). A high rate of minor child abuse may be a result of this factor.

The Conflict Tactics Scales were also used in a study comparing the rates of violence against children in China and Korea, revealing that 70.6% (minor 42.2%; serious 22.6%) of Chinese children and 68.9% (minor 9.4%; serious 51%) of Korean children were physically abused [\[22\]](#). From this study, it can be concluded that minor physical abuse is the most prevalent form of physical abuse (63.5%). There is a decrease in severe physical violence. The rate of severe abuse is nearly the same as that of China (22.5%), but it is lower than that of Korea [\[31\]](#). In terms of physical abuse, severe forms such as choking, burning, and scalding on purpose are reported to have the lowest rate. In the past six months, 10.9% of respondents reported having done so at least once.

Neglect of a child is defined here as the failure of parents or caregivers to provide for the physical and emotional needs of the child when they possess the knowledge, resources, and access to do so, or to protect the child from harm. It may, however, be difficult to distinguish between what is intentionally caused and what is caused by ignorance or a lack of care possibilities in many settings. In Kenya, abandonment and neglect were the most frequently cited forms of child abuse among adults [\[32\]](#). It was reported that 21.9% of the children in the study had been neglected by their parents. The prevalence of childhood neglect varies from 10% in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, to 19.4% in Singapore, according to [Straus and Savage \[33\]](#). A total of 3.3 million reports of child abuse or neglect were received by state and local child protective services in 2008. A total of 71 percent of the children were classified as victims of child neglect [\[16\]](#). In this study, neglect is defined as the failure to provide adequate food, safety, or medical care. Approximately 14% of respondents reported that they had failed to provide medical care, food, and safety to their children at least once. According to the information presented above, Vietnamese parents provide a high level of consideration and care for their children. It is also important to note that grandparents are valuable resources for the care of children in the family. The table below illustrates the relationship between characteristics and types of child abuse using logistic regression analysis. The models used are random effects regression and logistic regression.

**Table 3.**

Full logistic regression models: Relationship between the characteristics of the respondents and the types of child abuse.

	Minor abuse OR (SE)	Severe abuse OR (SE)	Very severe abuse. OR (SE)	Neglect OR (SE)
Unemployed	1.74 (.699)	0.888 (.389)	1.01 (.576)	1.16 (.632)
Single parent	3.10*** (1.08)	2.46* (1.22)	1.83 <sup>+</sup> (.668)	1.45 (.797)
Instability	0.699 (.184)	1.21 (.361)	2.59** (.792)	2.33** (.794)
Low education	0.662 (.222)	2.87** (1.18)	1.93 (.961)	1.58 (.737)
Low income	1.05 (.307)	1.59 (.545)	3.47*** (1.13)	1.11 (.421)
Alcohol abuse	1.90* (.552)	3.59** (1.56)	1.81 (.750)	1.84 <sup>+</sup> (.634)
Used abuse	1.50 (.378)	1.23 (.402)	1.87 <sup>+</sup> (.641)	2.18* (.897)
Family crowd	0.621* (.200)	0.886 (.320)	0.540 (.301)	1.06 (.509)

Note: <sup>+</sup>p < .10    \*p < .05    \*\*p < .01    \*\*\*p < .001

There has been a significant increase in physical violence against children in Bangladesh, Colombia, Italy, Kenya, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom as a result of low education and a lack of income [\[20, 34-36\]](#). The same results can also be found here. There is a strong correlation between low education and low income and severe child abuse, according to the results. It is estimated that Vietnamese couples with low levels of education are 2.87 times more likely to severely abuse their children.



The strongest association between low income and very severe physical abuse can be found in the data. Statistically, people with low incomes have 3.47 times higher odds of committing very severe abuse against their children than those with better incomes. A low income may be related to higher levels of parental stress and depression, which can lead to harsh or neglectful parenting [37].

According to the findings of the studies, there is a relationship between child abuse and risk factors. It is more likely that parents who physically abuse their children are young, single, poor, unemployed, and have a lower level of education than their counterparts who do not physically abuse their children [33]. In both developing and industrialized countries, poor, young, single mothers are at greater risk of using violence against their children. A single parent in Vietnam may also experience severe physical abuse as a result of being a single parent. A study conducted by Richard [38] indicated that single parents spend a greater amount of time working to support the household economy, which results in increased stress and physical abuse for their children.

There is a strong relationship between alcohol abuse and child abuse in Vietnam, as shown in Table 3. It is estimated that an alcohol-abusing parent is 1.90 times more likely to use minor physical abuse on their children and 3.59 times more likely to use severe physical abuse on their children than a non-alcohol-abusing parent. The results of this study are similar to those of the Vietnam Social Issues Committee study. In a study conducted by Dung [39], alcohol abuse was found to be a direct cause (60%) of domestic violence and child abuse.

The overcrowding of families and the instability of families are two risk factors associated with physical abuse. Unlike instability, which increases the risk of physical abuse, having many family members may reduce the risk of minor physical abuse. Based on Table 3, it can be seen that a family with many members statistically has 0.621 times lower odds of minor physical abuse. There is indirect evidence to support the statement that parents living with grandmothers and grandfathers have a greater chance of reducing physical abuse of their children.

In terms of child neglect, this study shows that almost all risk factors, with the exception of instability and substance abuse, were not associated with the condition. In contrast to this finding, other studies have stated that domestic violence [40], unemployment [13], and poverty [41] are factors that increase the likelihood of neglect. Among the variables used in this study, only abuse and instability are associated with child neglect. An unstable family environment, such as one in which family members and others move in and out, is a characteristic that is particularly prominent in cases of child neglect, as stated by Durrant [30]. There is evidence that this is the case in Vietnam; families who are constantly moving or changing places will have less time to plan for their children because they have to spend more time doing other things, such as seeking employment. As a result, they will not have enough time to care for their children, which increases the likelihood of child neglect.

Those who are maltreated as children are more likely to become maltreated parents themselves, perpetuating the cycle of abuse and neglect and exposing another generation of children to abuse [42]. It is possible that this may be the case since, in this study, parents who were sexually abused had a relationship with both the neglect of their children and very severe physical abuse. Studies conducted in Vietnam have indicated that people who have experienced violence or abuse are more likely to develop behavioral problems, such as aggressive behavior [43]. Researchers have not been able to explain why this occurs. Nevertheless, social learning theory suggests that child abuse is a learned behavior [43]. It is believed that violence in the home is a predictor of future violence. In accordance with other theories, it has been shown that individuals who experienced violent or abusive childhoods are more likely to grow up to abuse children or spouses than individuals who experienced little to no violence as children [44].

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

An overview of some of the factors that can contribute to child abuse is provided in this article. In spite of this, the article has not discussed some other risk factors due to its limitations, including the unique characteristics of the children (disability, developmental delays, stepchildren, etc.) and the other characteristics of parents, such as patriarchy. Based on the results of the national survey on people with disabilities [45], Vietnam has about 6.2 million people with disabilities, representing 7.06 percent of the population. It is estimated that there are 663 thousand children with disabilities in this country between the ages of 2 and 17. Accordingly, this is also a notable number in terms of child abuse. Furthermore, Vietnam has been a feudal country since ancient times, so patriarchal ideology still prevails in some families. Research conducted in Vietnam and around the world [24, 30], has shown that patriarchy is the primary cause of domestic violence. As a result, when conducting further research in this area, we should keep this issue in mind.

The findings of the article indicate that single parents are more likely to be involved in various forms of child abuse, exhibiting strong relationships with minor abuse and weak relationships with severe and very severe abuse. In Vietnam, divorce rates are increasing, and a significant number of young women are becoming single mothers who are raising children without being married [46]. The studies presented in this paper indicate that single parents are compelled to work a great deal, and the absence of a caretaker for their children can lead to stress, which can result in child abuse. To address this issue, countries around the world have implemented specific policies to support single parents. For instance, Austria, France, and Ireland provide special benefits or tax credits for single parents, in addition to other allowances [20]. In the United Kingdom, single-parent families may be eligible for other forms of income-based benefits, rather than those specific to their status as single-parent families. In most countries, child support is a legal obligation, and nonpayment is usually sanctioned, ranging from enforced payments to salary deductions. A program of this type will assist single parents in reducing the burden of childcare, thereby limiting child abuse [47, 48]. Due to current trends and increasing divorce rates, Vietnam does not currently have specific policies for single parents.

There is a strong correlation between the instability factor and child abuse at levels of severe abuse in this study. It has been mentioned above that instability refers to a family residing in a place for less than five years. To explain this problem, research has shown that living in new environments is a cause of stress, crisis, and child abuse [2, 11]. That can easily lead to negative behaviors such as serious violence against children [10, 49]. Furthermore, living in a new environment should decrease the likelihood of having supportive relationships. As a matter of fact, because new families are unfamiliar with each other, the protective factors of the community have not been much of an issue. This is also a reason why it is difficult to control violent behavior [33]. To mitigate this risk factor, studies have shown that a strong sense of cohesion and a structured community are necessary to support and intervene as soon as abusive behavior occurs [22].

Vietnam is a country with a high level of solidarity, as evidenced by its struggle against invaders. Despite this, the community does not intervene when child abuse occurs, considering it to be the family's business due to the concept and culture of hitting children as acceptable [30]. In support of this argument, Coulton, et al. [10] argue that delinquent behaviors are more acceptable to those who are frequently exposed to them. It is therefore important to propagate and raise awareness of the issue of child abuse in the community so that the community can intervene when it occurs.

As a country that is very active in poverty reduction, Vietnam has achieved many accomplishments; however, poverty still exists as an objective issue that cannot be solved immediately. Studies by Bywaters, et al. [50]; Eilis, et al. [49] and Featherstone, et al. [28] show that poverty is a serious cause of violence and child abuse. Behavioral violence and child abuse need to be addressed when there is no possibility of helping families escape poverty immediately. Public awareness campaigns, the development of support networks, and the promotion of neighborhood interest are effective solutions in this case [47]. Studies have also shown that low education has a close relationship with child abuse [34, 51]. In Vietnam, experts at scientific conferences have emphasized that low education contributes to a lack of awareness of general laws and regulations regarding child abuse [2, 52, 53]. A number of Vietnamese still adhere to the belief that beating a child with a rod is only for the purpose of ensuring that the child receives a good education so that they can become good adults in the future. This belief developed during feudalism in Vietnam [24]. There is a belief that spanking with bare hands and hitting a child on the bottom with hard objects will lead to the improvement of children [24]. As a result, it is vital to inform the public about the law and raise awareness of the issue of violence, in addition to developing educational strategies and policies. Due to poor education or limited access to information, propaganda forms must be flexible, as well as the content, so that even people with a low level of education can understand the information and become aware of the need for change [52]. Alcohol consumption is high in Vietnam. In terms of average alcohol consumption per person, Vietnam ranks second in Southeast Asia and third in Asia [25]. Particularly among men, the rate of dangerous alcohol consumption has increased over the years. One in three men consumes alcohol at a dangerous level [25]. Alcohol abuse is strongly associated with deviant behaviors, such as child abuse [27, 51]. This study has therefore strengthened scientific evidence about the harmful effects of alcohol, not only on the drinkers themselves but also on those around them, particularly children who suffer as a result. For detoxification models that require attention to vulnerable people around alcoholics, such as their children, it is necessary to pay attention to individuals who are vulnerable to alcohol withdrawal, as it takes time and a combination of various methods to stop alcohol withdrawal [54].

The problem of child abuse is not only a social issue but also a crime that requires a strong response from government departments, unions, and society as a whole. To effectively prevent crime, it is necessary to identify the specific causes of child abuse to implement comprehensive and effective interventions.

## 6. Implication

At present, Vietnam has basic legal provisions concerning the rights of children and the responsibilities of schools, families, and society, as well as hotlines that are available to protect and assist children. In spite of this, the implementation remains inefficient and impractical. As a result, in order to prevent child abuse cases, propaganda and education must be promoted to raise public awareness about child abuse, and drug and alcohol control must be strengthened. Supportive policies must be in place for families with risk factors, and specialized interventions need to be provided. Additionally, a social environment must be established that unites, supports, and assists one another. It is essential to restore Vietnamese culture and traditions, build a family style, family religion, and family routine, as well as for grandparents, parents, and children to set a good example for their children and grandchildren. In order to ensure that children have healthy development and a bright future, it is important to prevent violent behavior and abuse. This contributes to the general development of society as a whole.

## References

- [1] National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine, *Understanding child abuse and neglect*. The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/2117>, 1993.
- [2] E. Votruba-Drzal, "Income changes and cognitive stimulation in young children's home learning environments," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 65, no. 2, pp. 341-355, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2003.00341.x>
- [3] M. D. De Bellis and L. A. Thomas, "Biologic findings of post-traumatic stress disorder and child maltreatment," *Current Psychiatry Reports*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 108-117, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11920-003-0025-6>
- [4] C. Walsh, H. L. MacMillan, and E. Jamieson, "The relationship between parental substance abuse and child maltreatment: Findings from the Ontario Health Supplement," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 27, no. 12, pp. 1409-1425, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2003.07.002>
- [5] K. W. Springer, J. Sheridan, D. Kuo, and M. Carnes, "Long-term physical and mental health consequences of childhood physical abuse: Results from a large population-based sample of men and women," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 31, no. 5, pp. 517-530, 2007. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2006.07.003>

- [6] M. H. Teicher, "Wounds that time won't heal: The neurobiology of child abuse," *Cerebrum*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 50-67, 2000.
- [7] V. T. Hoa, "Parents' perception of abused children," *Education Journal*, no. 3, pp. 123-135, 2019.
- [8] PFCSI and SCS, *Children experiencing corporal and emotional punishment in Vietnam: Study in four provinces, Population family and children scientific institute and save the children Sweden*. Vietnam: PFCSI & SCS, 2005.
- [9] M. A. Straus, S. L. Hamby, D. Finkelhor, D. W. Moore, and D. Runyan, "Identification of child maltreatment with the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scales: Development and psychometric data for a national sample of American parents," *Child abuse & neglect*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 249-270, 1998. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134\(98\)00001-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(98)00001-2)
- [10] C. J. Coulton, J. E. Korbin, M. Su, and J. Chow, "Community level factors and child maltreatment rates," *Child Development*, vol. 66, no. 5, pp. 1262-1276, 1995. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1131646>
- [11] R. R. Kornhauser, *Social sources of delinquency: An appraisal of analytic models*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.
- [12] B. Freisthler, L. T. Midanik, and P. J. Gruenewald, "Alcohol outlets and child physical abuse and neglect: Applying routine activities theory to the study of child maltreatment," *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, vol. 65, no. 5, pp. 586-592, 2004. <https://doi.org/10.15288/jsa.2004.65.586>
- [13] I. Katz, J. Corlyon, V. La Placa, and S. Hunter, *The relationship between parenting and poverty*. New York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2007.
- [14] D. Ghate and N. Hazel, *Parenting in poor environments: Stress, support and coping*. London: Jessica Kingsley, 2002.
- [15] C. A. Hooper, S. Gorin, C. Cabral, and C. Dyson, *Living with hardship 24/7: The diverse experiences of families in poverty in England*. New York: The Frank Buttle Trust, 2007.
- [16] UNICEF, *Report child abuse & neglect*. United States: UNICEF, 2010.
- [17] WHO, "Violence against children. World Health Organization," Retrieved: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-children>. [Accessed 2019].
- [18] K. L. Hyde, *Urban neighborhood characteristics and child maltreatment*. In D. Harrington, S. J. Zuravin, R. Fletcher, K. L. Hyde, & D. Pinetello (Eds.), *Child maltreatment: Correlates and outcomes*. United States: National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1999.
- [19] J. E. Korbin, C. J. Coulton, S. Chard, C. Platt-Houston, and M. Su, "Neighborhood views on the definition and etiology of child maltreatment," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 22, no. 5, pp. 393-407, 1998. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134\(98\)00008-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(98)00008-8)
- [20] S. Isaranurug, P. Nitirat, P. Chauytong, and C. Wongarsa, "Factors relating to the aggressive behavior of primary caregiver toward a child," *Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand= Chotmaihet Thangphaet*, vol. 84, no. 10, pp. 1481-1489, 2001.
- [21] R. J. Sampson, W. R. Stephen, and E. Felton, "Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy," *Science*, vol. 277, pp. 918-924, 1997.
- [22] D. H. Kim, K. I. Kim, and Y. C. Park, "Children's experience of violence in China and Korea: A trans-culture study," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 24, no. 9, pp. 1163-1173, 2000.
- [23] C. R. Emery, *Beijing families and neighborhoods study*. Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. [https://www.hfg.org/grant\\_summaries/beijing-seoul-families-and-neighborhoods-study/](https://www.hfg.org/grant_summaries/beijing-seoul-families-and-neighborhoods-study/), 2010.
- [24] T. N. Nguyen, *Child maltreatment and the view of "Whip love"*. Vietnam: Hochiminh's Research Institute, 2019.
- [25] Ministry of Education and Training, *Vietnam education analysis report for the period 2011-2020*. Vietnam: Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, 2022.
- [26] European Commission, "Mechanisms supporting single parents across the European Union," Retrieved: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3ade5c22-b4d7-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>. [Accessed 2019].
- [27] F. Izabela *et al.*, "Relationship between child maltreatment and alcohol abuse-Findings from adverse childhood experience study in Republic of Macedonia," *Macedonian Journal of Medical Science*, pp. 390-394, 2014. <https://doi.org/10.3889/oamjms.2014.067>
- [28] B. Featherstone *et al.*, "Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection?," *Children and Youth Services Review*, vol. 97, pp. 127-133, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.06.009>
- [29] WHO, "Calls for strong actions to tackle harmful use of alcohol in Hanoi, Vietnam," Retrieved: <https://www.who.int/vietnam/news/detail/18-07-2018-who-calls-for-strong-actions-to-tackle-harmful-use-of-alcohol>. [Accessed 2018].
- [30] J. E. Durrant, *Corporal punishment: Prevalence, predictors and implications for child behaviour and development*. In S. N. Hart (Ed.), *Eliminating corporal punishment*. Paris: UNESCO, 2005.
- [31] East-Asia, "Asian development outlook 2019: Chart data for East Asia. Asian Development Bank," Retrieved: <https://data.adb.org/dataset/asian-development-outlook-ado-2019-chart-data-east-asia>. [Accessed 2019].
- [32] Awareness, *Nairobi: African network for the prevention and protection against child abuse and neglect*. Nairobi, Kenya: African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect, 2009.
- [33] M. A. Straus and S. A. Savage, "Neglectful behavior by parents in the life history of university students in seventeen countries and its relation to violence against dating partners," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 27, no. 12, pp. 1427-1445, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2003.07.003>
- [34] M. Bardi and S. M. Borgognini-Tarli, "A survey on parent-child conflict resolution: Intrafamily violence in Italy," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 25, no. 6, pp. 839-853, 2001. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134\(01\)00242-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0145-2134(01)00242-3)
- [35] A. Hadi, "Child abuse among working children in rural Bangladesh: Prevalence and determinants," *Public Health*, vol. 124, no. 3, pp. 164-170, 2010. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2010.01.006>
- [36] C. Lindell and C. G. Svedin, "Physical child abuse in Sweden: A study of police reports between 1986 and 1996," *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, vol. 36, pp. 150-157, 2001. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s001270050304>
- [37] R. D. Conger, L. E. Wallace, Y. Sun, R. L. Simons, V. C. McLoyd, and G. H. Brody, "Economic pressure in African American families: A replication and extension of the family stress model," *Developmental Psychology*, vol. 38, no. 2, pp. 179-193, 2002. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.38.2.179>
- [38] J. G. Richard, "Child abuse and violence in single parents: Parent absence and economic deprivation," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, vol. 59, no. 4, pp. 492-501, 2010. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0088885>
- [39] N. T. Dung, "Domestic violence in Vietnam – Situation and solution," presented at the Vietnam Social Issues Committee, 2017.
- [40] P. Cawson, *Child maltreatment in the family: The experience of a national sample of young people*. London: NSPCC, 2002.



- [41] M. H. Teicher, N. L. Dumont, Y. Ito, C. Vaituzis, J. N. Giedd, and S. L. Andersen, "Childhood neglect is associated with reduced corpus callosum area," *Biological Psychiatry*, vol. 56, no. 2, pp. 80-85, 2004. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsych.2004.04.024>
- [42] T. Watts-English, B. L. Fortson, N. Gibler, S. R. Hooper, and M. D. De Bellis, "The psychobiology of maltreatment in childhood," *Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 62, no. 4, pp. 717-736, 2006.
- [43] B. T. X. Mai, *Solutions to reduce domestic violence toward children and women*. Hanoi, Vietnam: Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences, 2019.
- [44] R. D. Parke and C. W. Collmer, *Child abuse: An interdisciplinary analysis*. In E. M. Hetherington (Ed.), *Review of child development research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1975.
- [45] General Statistics Office & UNICEF, "Results of the national survey of people with disabilities in Vietnam," 2019.
- [46] N. T. Duong, *The phenomenon of a single family in Vietnamese society*. Hanoi, Vietnam: Social Science Publisher House, 2021.
- [47] Y. Ha, M. Cancian, and D. R. Meyer, "Child support and income inequality," *Poverty & Public Policy*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 147-158, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pop4.215>
- [48] K. Joanne, "Exploring policies for the reduction of child physical abuse and neglect," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 40, pp. 1–11, 2015.
- [49] K. Eilis, G. C. Skinner, and P. W. Bywaters, "A review of the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect: Insights from scoping reviews, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses," *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 32, no. 4, p. e2795, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2795>
- [50] P. Bywaters *et al.*, *The relationship between poverty, child abuse, and neglect: An evidence review*. Joseph Rowntree Foundation. <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/relationship-between-poverty-child-abuse-and-neglect-evidence-review>, 2016.
- [51] WHO, "Preventing child maltreatment: A guide to taking action and generating evidence," Retrieved: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594365\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594365_eng.pdf). [Accessed 2006].
- [52] MOET and UNICEF, *Workshop on prevention and control of violence against children in educational institutions*. Hanoi, Vietnam: Ministry of Education and Training & UNICEF, 2019.
- [53] Center for Legal Advice and Legal Aid, *Workshop: Sharing experiences in preventing and combating child abuse*. Hanoi, Vietnam: Center for Legal Advice and Legal Aid, 2022.
- [54] B. Q. Huy, N. M. Hung, and L. V. Quan, *Alcohol addiction treatment*. Hanoi: Medical Publishing House, 2019.